

GENERAL NEWS.

London's Week-end Fires.
During a recent week-end the London Fire Brigade were called out 33 times.

War Savings Associations.
War Savings Associations to the number of 33,593 are now at work in England and Wales.

Glasgow's Generosity.
Over two millions and a half had been raised in Glasgow for relief funds from the beginning of the war to the end of last year.

Still Going Strong.
Mr. William Fraser, of Midstone, recently reached the age of 102. He was one of the workers on behalf of Mr. Disraeli at the election of 1837.

An M. P. Clergyman.
In view of the dearth of clergy, the Archbishop of York has licensed Mr. E. R. Burton, M. P., of Upsall Castle, Thirsk, to take Sunday services in his diocese. Mr. Burton preached at Thirsk on Sunday on food economy.

A Lady Mayor.
Mrs. Keayon was recently appointed Mayor of Dukinfield, in succession to her husband, Mr. G. H. Keayon, seven times mayor and Liberal Parliamentary candidate for the Stalybridge Division, who died suddenly.

Patriotic Methodists.
At the opening of the Primitive Methodist Conference in the Holborn Hall, the Rev. J. Telford Parr, the new president, said that their Church had sent 100,000 of her sons into the war. Already 10,000 had been broken and maimed, and 5,000 had lain down their lives.

A Flower Loving Soldier.
Lance-Corporal Vernon Rawcliffe, of Accrington, has made a garden on the motor-lorry on which he carries munitions up to the firing line "somewhere in France." In a letter to his wife he writes:—"I have in it pansies, forget-me-nots, primroses, and a few other flowers and plants."

A Generous American.
An American whose name has not been disclosed has sent £3,247 16s. to the Royal School for Officers' Daughters, Lansdown, Bath. The gift will enable the governing body to proceed after the war with the addition of a new wing to the present building giving accommodation for another 25 pupils.

Death of Teresa Carreno.
A recent telegram from New York announces the death of Teresa Carreno, the pianist. Teresa Carreno was born at Caracas in Venezuela, December 22, 1853. At the age of eight, after lessons from Gottschalk, she appeared at a concert in New York, and then went to Paris, where she acquired some of the Chopin tradition from Mathis, one of his best pupils, and later on learned from Rubinstein himself much of his amazing technique and the power of making a simple passage eloquent with feeling. She was married at 19 to Emil Saurer, the violinist, but after a few years they separated; she sang in opera under Maurice Strakosky with Tagliapietra, who became her second husband, and for three weeks took the place of the conductor after a quarrel with the singers. Her career as a pianist began in 1889, and three years later she married Eugene d'Albert. She was playing in London as late as 1912. Her style was singularly pure, though there was one little mannerism of hesitating for a moment before an important chord which was used as a substitute for a loud crash. For, like Paganini, she never exceeded the true limits of piano tone, and yet managed, by means of fine gradation, to create the widest range of expression. She was content to forgo dramatic contrasts, and to make music simply a happy and beautiful thing.

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GENERAL NEWS.

The Tower Bridge.
The cost of working the Tower Bridge last year was £15,276. The bascules were lifted 3,354 times.

Liable For Service at 41.
In a Divisional Court recently the Lord Chief Justice and Justice Darling and Avery decided that a man who reached the age of 41 on Nov. 29 last, and who had been exempted until Jan. 1, but had not applied for a renewal of his certificate, was liable for service. His conviction as absentee on March 7 was upheld.

Woman's Strange Death.
Overcome by the heat while picking fruit, Mary Ann Pink, 39, of Sawbridgeworth, Herts, fell and grazed her chin on the stump of a raspberry cane. The injury set up tetanus, from which she died at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she was taken because the hospital at Bishop's Cleeveford could not admit her, owing to the epidemic of diphtheria.

NOTICES.

NOTICE.

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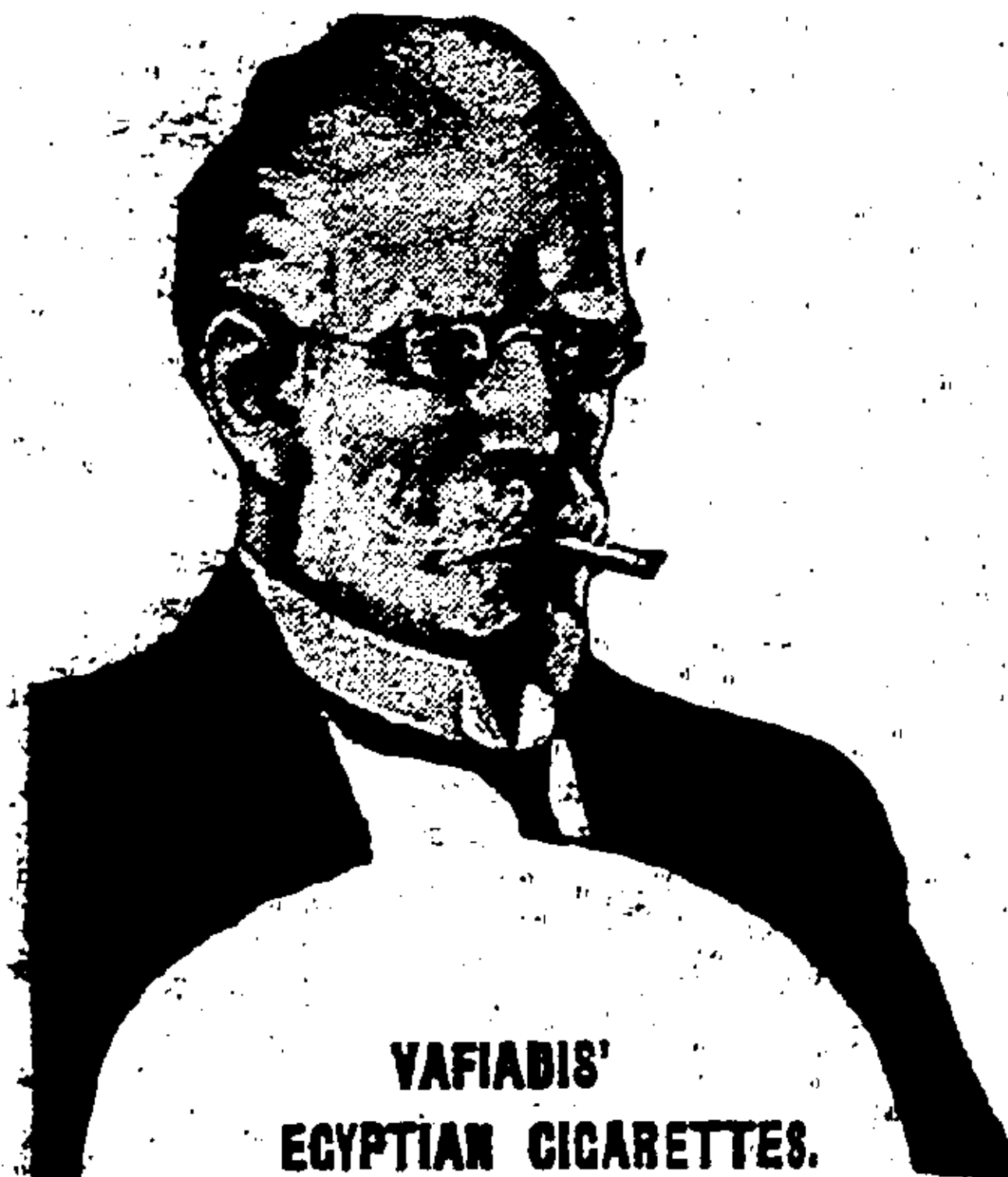
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The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND at the rate of 9 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1917, has been declared. The dividend will be payable on and after WEDNESDAY the 15th day of August, 1917, to Shareholders on the Register on SATURDAY the 4th day of August, 1917, and will be paid to shareholders on the Colonial (Hongkong) Register at exchange of 2/6 per dollar.

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W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 23rd July, 1917.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1917.

THE BIG FRANCO-BRITISH THRUST.

What is described as the "biggest battle of the war" is at present in progress, and from what has been so far reported of it there is every indication that it will lead to very important results which will probably have far-reaching consequences. It is, briefly, an effort of the British and French forces to outflank von Hindenburg and, to all appearance, the strategy that is being employed is proving successful. It is, of course, too soon to predict what may be the complete outcome of this gigantic operation—or, rather, series of operations—but everything points at the moment to a decisive stroke being effected by the French and British forces that will probably lead to a dramatic turn of events in the near future. The first intimation of the big battle was contained in a brief and characteristic report by Field Marshal Sir Douglas in which he said:—"In conjunction with the French, operating on our left, we attacked at 3.58 this morning (July 31) on a wide front north of the Lys River. The Allies captured their first objectives on the whole front attacked, and it is reported that they are satisfactorily progressing at all points. A considerable number of prisoners has already been taken." From the amplified statements supplied by Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters, we learn that the attack is from the Lys to Bessinghe, the length of the front attacked being some fifteen miles. It has been evident for some time past that the next big move would be something in the nature of a continuation of our recent advance at Messines which had proved so timely and successful. It was equally evident that if something in the nature of a decisive stroke was to be made on the Hindenburg Line it would be much more effective being directed from the Belgian rather than from the French front. With that end in view vast preparations were in progress for some days before the attack. Tremendous artillery duels took place, portending events on an exceptionally large scale. Aided by big concentration of artillery our troops appear to have had little difficulty in reaching their first objective, namely, the enemy's front line, where, it is recorded, numerous prisoners were taken. At certain points the fighting "was too thick to enable the getting of particulars." This indicates that the enemy was not so demoralized by our artillery as to be unable to put up a stiff defence. Several enemy divisions, Reuter's correspondent reports, were "badly knocked about." The tanks were in operation and again did good work at the captured trenches.

Later details to hand continue to show that the "thrust" was one of the most important of the "Western Front." Steamtrains, it now appears, was the extreme limit of the movement and both it and Labessee Ville, on the Lys River, which was the other extreme point of the attack, are now in our hands. Sir Douglas Haig further reports that we rapidly penetrated the German positions to a depth of two miles. He adds:—"Having gained the day's objectives at an early hour, we continue the attack and with the greatest gallantry captured Bixchoote and positions to the south-east and west of the village in a front of two and a half miles, including Korteker and Cabaret." This is splendid, clearly proving not only the rapidity of the British action and the wonderfully complete preparations that made it possible, but likewise the great determination of our troops evident in the movement and in the success attained to carry everything before them. In fact, the whole action while perhaps not quite deserving as yet to eclipse the famous advances on the Somme and the Ancre, is one of the "greatest in extent, in the preparation required as in the results attained, and, not least by any means, as a further indication of the enormous vitality latent in the French and British armies."

The enemy, it will be seen, was not quite helpless before the terrific bombardment that preceded the "thrust," as is evident by the artillery duel that took place, nor when defeated in their first line entrenchments were they unable to counter-attack. This they did with considerable force, as we read that "heavy fighting" took place all day long. Still, everything points conclusively to the fact that this latest great combined movement is one of the utmost importance and, as its effects are not yet fully realized, it may well be one of the most decisive battles of the war. Should the French and British troops continue the attack on Hindenburg's flank and meet with even a similar measure of success, it will certainly put a very different aspect on the situation both in France and in Belgium.

Maimed Beggars.

There are one or two mysteries in Hongkong which we have almost given up hope of ever solving, and among these is the point as to why the authorities permit certain thoroughfares to be infested by maimed and disfigured members of the begging fraternity. We most gladly acknowledge the fact that the Police have done good work in recent years in rounding up mendicants, until to-day, reckoned in the aggregate, there are probably fewer of the gentry about than for many a long day. But that does not get rid of the fact that certain familiar and notorious individuals are still permitted to pester the public at favourite beating-grounds. And it is a campaign against these that we should like to see inaugurated. Among other places which might be quoted is the tramway terminus at Causeway Bay, where at almost any hour can be seen a poor, wretched individual who is maimed two feet and who stumps about on his knees, exposing the stumps of his legs. One cannot but feel pity towards a beggar of this kind, but, all the same, it is little short of disgraceful that he should be permitted to intrude himself so prominently on the public gaze; indeed, one can imagine circumstances in which his anxiety to display his maimed condition might be distinctly dangerous. We do not necessarily suggest that stunted creatures of his type should be roughly bundled into goal; rather would we prefer that one or other of the many Chinese charitable organizations in the Colony made it its business to care for these unfortunate beings. At any rate, the public street is no place for them, and if charity cannot do anything in the matter we sincerely hope that the authorities will.

Labour and the War.

As was amply demonstrated during the Russian Revolution, Labour, organised as it now is into an effective weapon, is a force that can play a most important part in any political upheaval. It would be regrettable and by no means in keeping with the democratic spirit of the times if such were not the case. On the other hand, there is unquestionably a grave danger present in the fear that many, with good reason, hold that Labour may arrogate to itself a power which it is no way as any right to exercise. We see in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution what has taken place, for it is evident that much of the continued ferment in Russia is entirely owing to the extreme views propagated by the Socialists, who are working almost exclusively in the interests of the wage-earning class. Now this class, important as it is in any State, has by no means the right to arrogate to itself powers and to attempt to bring into practical politics policies that it would heartily denounce were they advocated by any other section of the State.

The Paris Conference.

It may or it may not be untimely to hold the "International" at present, but it certainly is inopportune that Labour, directed for the most part by extreme Socialists—many of whom are fanatics—should hold such a conference with apparently the avowed purpose of considering if peace proposals are not now imperative. As Mr. Henderson, who seems to have forgotten that he is a member of the British Cabinet, still intends, despite the criticism that his action has evoked, to be present at this much-discussed Paris Conference, it is as well that he should be made the target of the almost universal disapproval that continues to be pointed at the Government for granting such easy facilities to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and others of his type to be present at the Conference. It appears that Mr. Henderson did not even take the trouble to announce to his Cabinet colleagues his intention of going to Paris, which seems to show that he is a Socialist and a Labour representative first and a British Cabinet member and perhaps all the time. Whatever may be the outcome of this much discussed Conference it is to be hoped that its members will bear in mind that it is possible—given a proper perspective—for those of Socialist tendencies likewise to be true patriots.

DAY BY DAY.

WE INVITE WHAT WE FEAR. THE SAME BY A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE OF MIND. WE INVITE AND ATTRACT THE INFLUENCES AND CONDITIONS WE DESIRE—True.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the third anniversary of Germany's declaration of war on France.

The Dollar. The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 7.9/16d. The closing rate will be found on Page 1.

Tennis "At Home." The Wigwam Tennis Club is to be at Home of Saturday next from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be a Spoon Competition.

C.E.M.S. The next meeting of the Church of England Men's Society will be held on Monday next, August 6, on board the Oseon, which will leave Statue Pier at 5 p.m.

Obituary. We regret to record the death of Mr. Stanley McVider, who has for several years been superintendent of the Eng. Hok Fong Steamship Company in Hongkong. Death took place at deceased's residence, 8, Macdonnell Road, yesterday afternoon. Deceased was 50 years of age. The funeral takes place to-day, passing the Monument at 5.30 p.m.

Pelted With Onions. A scene which was common enough in old election campaigns took place yesterday, the chief actors of which were a hawker and an Indian sergeant. The latter was strolling in Jubilee Street, when, without warning, the hawker hurled a juicy onion at him. The aim was true and the onion hit the Indian in the region of the belt. The throwing of the onion was the signal for a regular fusillade of pumpkins, bananas, green vegetables, etc., which were thrown at the constable, who soon sought cover and during a lull in the fire rallied forth and placed the hand of the law on the thrower of the onion, the leader of the forces resenting the sergeant's presence. This was the story told to Mr. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, by the Indian, who added that defendant was standing underneath the verandah in the street, and led the campaign against him, because he knew that he (the sergeant) had "an eye" on some hawkers who sold there without licence. Defendant denied that he threw the offending onion, and that the guilty one was a small boy who lived in Bridge Street. He said to the boy, "Don't throw the onion, small boy." The case was adjourned.

JULY RAINFALL.

Over Thirty-two Inches Recorded.

The rainfall registered at the Botanic Gardens during July was as follows:—

Date.	Inch.
1st	2.38
2nd	.01
3rd	—
4th	—
5th	—
6th	—
7th	—
8th	—
9th	—
10th	.67
11th	.17
12th	—
13th	—
14th	.69
15th	7.60
16th	2.95
17th	2.88
18th	.20
19th	—
20th	—
21st	.23
22nd	—
23rd	.62
24th	3.85
25th	3.03
26th	.69
27th	1.96
28th	2.81
29th	2.23
30th	—
31st	.01
Total	32.66

CAINE ROAD COLLAPSE.

The Enquiry Resumed To-day.

The enquiry was continued at the Police Court this morning, before Mr. J. R. Wood, into the circumstances surrounding the death of a female victim of the Caine Road collapse.

The Coroner said that, since yesterday he had received a letter from Mr. Little, the architect, who regretted that he was laid up and was therefore unable to attend yesterday. In his letter he stated that it was likely he would be unable to attend for a week. He (the Coroner) was sorry to hear that.

Mr. Bowley at this stage announced that he was appearing in the interests of Messrs. Leigh and Orange.

Brother Aimar produced receipts given by Mr. Little for payment of some work done.

The Coroner remarked that the receipt did not show that Mr. Little had received any fees for the superintending of the work.

In answer to Mr. Bowley, witness said that he had not looked for the sketch made by Mr. Little of some work to be done to the playground. He believed the sketch was only a rough one.

Mr. Bowley said he thought they should have the sketch.

The Clerk of Works, recalled, said the sketch was only a rough one, made on waste paper and he had not got it in his possession now.

Further cross-examined by Mr. Bowley, Brother Aimar said he did not notice the cracks in the playground when he first came in 1914, but he did later in the year. About the middle of 1915, he noticed a crack in the wall, of perhaps one or two feet. There was a parapet wall around the playground about three feet wide. He thought the crack was in the parapet wall. The crack might or might not have extended below the surface of the playground into the retaining wall. In July, 1915, he asked the advice of Messrs. Leigh and Orange regarding the wall, and he was advised to have the crack filled up with cement.

After this, he did not further consult Messrs. Leigh and Orange about the playground. At the time he left the colony the work on the playground had progressed considerably. Commencing from the west of the ground, more than half had been completed. It was his intention to concrete the ground to the eastern wall, and to concrete the whole surface. He noticed that the workmen had built a small wall about a foot high parallel to the eastern wall, and about six feet away from it. The wall was built in accordance with instructions from Mr. Little, but he could not say what the wall was being built for, except to make the ground slope gently to the eastern boundary. He inspected the wall with Mr. Little about three months ago. After the cracks had been filled in, they reappeared in 1916, and he then had them repaired again. Father Grampa had no connection with St. Joseph's College.

Mr. W. L. Leask, architect, and partner, in Messrs. Leigh and Orange, said the wall was built by the Chinese contractor, and he partly superintended it. The wall was built in 1911 or 1912. The plans were prepared by Mr. Bryer, who also supervised the work. The work on the ground was completed probably in June 1912. The wall was inspected by a representative of the firm, and witness himself inspected the wall in July 1915, at the request of the St. Joseph's College authorities. He saw a crack in the wall at the north-east corner. The crack was about eight feet long and extended very slightly below the surface of the playground. At the same time witness was asked to inspect cracks in the surface of the playground. The surface of the playground was slightly sunk towards the north-east corner. At the time witness considered the wall safe and he did not inspect it again before the collapse. He had looked at the places since the collapse. He formed the opinion that it was due to excessive rain, and the accumulation of

OPEN-AIR CONCERT.

"Band Night" At North Point.

North Point was, last night, a scene of considerable animation, gay and bright, by reason of the many multi-coloured electric lights that illuminated the place, while overhead the moon shone in peerless beauty.

It was the first Band Concert that had been held on the beach for "many moons." The Police Reserve Band provided an excellent programme, and the attractiveness of the artificial lights and the excellent tramway car service, which made the journey delightful, were thoroughly appreciated, this being evident by the large attendance present. All the seats near the bandstand were early occupied, and during the concert hundreds more perched themselves on the seawall, while many others promenade round.

In every respect the concert was a great success, and should encourage the Government who had caused the bandstand to be erected along with a buffet (not yet quite completed) to continue whenever possible such admirable open-air entertainments. The Tramway Company naturally contributed much towards the concert's success in providing such an efficient and effective number of electric lights, to say nothing of the continued stream of cars. There were also many motor cars present, and their arrival and the arrival of the tramway cars was not always conducive to the pleasure of those enjoying the music. We would suggest that at future concerts tramcars should not stop opposite the bandstand but at a point at least one hundred yards further west. It was pleasing to note that chiefly by the exertions of a small body of police, under the supervision of the Hon. Mr. Mc. L. Messer (Captain Superintendent) and Mr. F. E. Hoogh, the Assistant Superintendent of the Police Reserve, excellent order was maintained, particularly of motor traffic.

As stated, the concert was extremely enjoyable and it is to be hoped that it may be possible to hold many such entertainments throughout the hot weather.

rainwater on the earth deposited on the old surface of the playground. This earth held the water back and the rain entered the cracks in the surface of the playground. This produced extra pressure as the water could not get away quickly enough.

By Mr. Wakeman:—When he examined the cracks he viewed them from the upper, the middle, and the foundation of the wall) and also the lower.

Mr. Leask, in answer to Mr. Bowley, said the final payment was made in September and it was always the practice of the firm to inspect work thoroughly before the final payment was made. He did not inspect the work because he was not asked to do so. He was an assistant at that time. On instructions, he inspected the trench foundations. This was the usual practice.

The Coroner:—I don't quite know the object of these questions. There was no suggestion of negligence in the construction of the wall.

Mr. Bowley:—They might show the jury that the wall was properly constructed. The Coroner:—I do not think we have heard anything otherwise.

By Mr. Lo:—Witness did not think the wall would come down by reason of added earth without rain.

By the Coroner:—He would have considered it prudent to have the wall inspected from time to time. He did not advise the St. Joseph's College authorities to that effect.

By Mr. Lo:—Having regard to the circumstances of the case, and assuming the crack had widened, it would have been more correct to repair the retaining wall before proceeding with the work on the playground.

By Mr. Bowley:—The wall was not built with round stones. The wall was built like other retaining walls in the Colony.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

There is an even more interesting reason for the fertility of Malta than that suggested by the writer to a Home paper who the other day described the island's little fields made of imported earth on arid rocks, says a correspondent. When the Knights of St. John were driven out of their own fertile island of Rhodes by the Turks in 1522, after a two-hundred years' residence they were for nearly eight years homeless suppliants in every European Court till Charles V. took pity on them and gave them Malta. It was a dreary, desert rock when they took possession, and they mourned the memory of their life of roses, but with great industry set to work to turn Malta into a garden. They brought shiploads of earth, and everywhere made little terrace gardens. The work was interrupted by two of the most exciting sieges in history, but after La Valette, the Grand Master, had finally driven off the 30,000 besieging Turks it went on with fresh vigour. Those old knights are to be thanked to-day for the St. John Ambulance Association and the Red Cross and for Malta's charming little fields.

It would seem rather obvious advice to smokers to economise by using less tobacco, writes a correspondent, but a distinct saving can be made by using a smaller pipe. For some time past (says a Home correspondent) I have rationed myself on a fixed allowance per week, and as my smoking habits are very regular I was rather astonished to find that the quantity was finished sooner one week than another—once it lasted a full eight days. Then I realised that I had been using different pipes, of which one was a trifle larger in bowl capacity than the other. I smoked them alternately a week at a time, and the different effects on my pouch were quite marked. It may be said that a smoker who uses a small pipe will fill it often, but in practice—unless you are a "chain smoker," who never stops whilst he is awake—that is not so. A pipe is a pipe, and the ordinary smoker who has smoked a pipe of tobacco, whatever its size, will observe his usual interval before he fills up again.

An historical picture was sold at Bolton recently, depicting George Whitefield preaching in Bolton in 1750. It was painted by T. Walley, of Preston, in 1863, on commission. The "ingenious preacher" is seen addressing a mingled group of townspeople and rustics, gentry, tradespeople, and labourers, earnest religious enthusiasts and persons evidently indifferent to Gospel truth. There are portraits of several notabilities of Bolton and neighbourhood, whom the artist assumes to have been attracted by Whitefield's fame. Among these are Dornier Rastbottom, afterwards High Sheriff of Lancashire, and a noted antiquary; Richard Arkwright, then a barber in Bolton, and his wife, Fanny; Robert Taylor, a benevolent Boltonian, a Presbyterian of that day, whose epitaph in Bolton Churchyard correctly describes him as "the friend of the friendless," but whom contemporaries spoke of as "Old Forty Carls," from the profuse frizzing of his wig; George Escrick, one of the earliest of John Wesley's disciples; the Rev. W. Grimshaw, incumbent of Howarth, a great friend and associate of Wesley; the Rev. J. Milner, vicar of Chipping, who allowed Wesley several times to preach in his church; and the Rev. B. Ingham, the founder of the body known as the Inghamites. The picture is a companion of "Wesley Preaching in Bolton." It would be interesting to know what has become of the Inghamites, and what has become of this other picture. Sir William Lyster has secured the subject of this note for presentation to Ball's Wood Museum.

"I've just had some good news," said Isaacstein. "My son Billy has got a commission in the Army." "Go on," replied Abraham, rubbing his hands. "How much?"

CRIME IN HONGKONG.

Police Report for the Past Year.

The report of the Captain Superintendent of Police for the year 1916 was laid before the Legislative Council this afternoon. From it we take the following:—

The total of all cases reported to the Police during the year 1916 was 11,319 as against 9,460 in 1915 being an increase of 1,859 or 19.65 per cent. The average for the last five years is 10,853.4. In the division of these cases into serious and minor offences, there appears an increase, as compared with 1915, of 398 cases or 12.68 per cent. in the former and of 1,463 cases or 23.09 per cent. in the latter. This increase was to a large extent due to the very large influx of Chinese owing to the disturbances in Chinese Territory. Twelve murders were reported to the Police during the year, compared with 13 in 1915. In connection with 7 of these reports, no arrest was made, and in the remaining 5 cases, arrests were made. There were 2 cases in which convictions were obtained (5 persons of whom 3 were convicted and 2 discharged). In 3 cases there was no conviction (3 persons).

Nine man-slaughters were reported to the Police during the year as against 8 in 1915. In 2 cases, no arrest was made; in the remaining 7 cases arrests were made. There were 3 cases in which convictions were obtained (4 persons of whom 3 were convicted and 1 discharged). In 4 cases there was no conviction (4 persons).

Forty-seven gang robberies were reported to the Police during the year as against 44 in 1915. In 27 cases no arrest was made; in the remaining 20 cases arrests were made. There were 13 cases in which convictions were obtained (29 persons of whom 25 were convicted and 4 discharged). In 6 cases there was no conviction (9 persons). One case with one man undecided.

Sixteen street and highway robberies were reported to the Police during the year as against 20 in 1915. In 12 cases, no arrest was made; in the remaining 4 cases, arrests were made. There were 3 cases in which convictions were obtained (6 persons). In one case there was no conviction (1 person).

One hundred and sixty-four gambling warrants were executed as against 181 in 1915. There were 9 cases in which no conviction was obtained. Nine were lottery cases, compared with 11 in 1915.

The estimated value of property stolen during the year was \$288,581.70 as against \$197,251.88 in 1915, an increase of \$99,329.82. The average for the last five years is \$280,119.45. The value of property recovered and restored to owners was \$30,428.17 as against \$23,176.37 in 1915, an increase over property recovered in the previous year of \$7,251.80.

The following prosecutions were instituted under the Traffic Regulations, since repealed by Notification No. 141 of the 7th April, 1916:—Prosecutions, 3,483; convictions, 3,361; withdrawn, 21; discharged, 89; remanded, 12; result, \$12,954.50.

Forty beggars were dealt with by the Magistrate, and three who were sick were sent to the Tang Wah Hospital. 572 were sent to Canton as follows:—Once, 488; twice, 56; three, 29; four times, 17; seven times, 1; thirteen times, 1.

Nine hundred and sixty persons were banished from Hongkong; 778 persons deported from Singapore were sent on by Police; 4 persons deported from British North Borneo were sent on by Police; 141 vagrants were received from Singapore and sent on by Police; 582 vagrants were received from Dutch East Indies and sent on by Police; 1,087 vagrants were received from Saigon and sent on by Police; 16 coolies were received from Singapore and sent on by Police.

Six hundred and forty-eight persons were identified by finger impressions as having previous convictions against them, an increase of 146 as compared with 1915. Ninety-eight identifications were those of criminals who had returned from banishment.

FULL COURT.

An Appeal Allowed with Costs.

The conduct of the European Contingent (average strength 185) was good. The total number of reports against them was 22 as against 45 in 1915. There were two reports for being drunk or under the influence of drink as against 7 in 1915, 3 were reported for sleeping on duty as against none, and none for neglect of duty as against 2. One European constable was convicted for assault. The conduct of the Indian Contingent (average strength 471) was good. There were 276 reports as against 370 for the preceding year. For drunkenness there were 8 as against 48, for disorderly conduct 26 as against 28, for neglect of duty 8 as against 23, for absence from duty 60 as against 82, for gossiping and idling on duty 82 as against 58, and for sleeping on duty 20 as against 53. 248 men had no report. The behaviour of the Chinese Contingent (average strength 421) was fair. There were altogether 1,218 reports as against 885 in 1915. There was one report for drunkenness as against one, 138 for sleeping on duty as against 113, 23 for disorderly conduct as against 22, and 598 for minor offences as against 337. 180 men had no report. Five Chinese Constables were convicted by the Police Magistrate (four dismissed), 2 for misconduct as Police Constables, one for neglect of duty, one for larceny and bribery and one for assault. The seamen, coxswains, engineers, and stokers (average strength 179) had 117 reports as compared with 126 for last year. For drunkenness there was one report as against none in 1915, and 91 for absence from station and late for duty as against 84 in the previous year; 98 men had no report recorded against them.

First class medals were granted to Chinese Sergeant Major Chan Sik-cheung and Principal Chinese Detective Han Hang for over 30 years' long and faithful service; 4th class medals were granted to 4 Indians and 2 Chinese for long and faithful service, and to 3 Indians for saving lives and to 3 Chinese for exceptional service. Rewards of \$10 were given to an Indian Constable for saving life, and to a Chinese Constable for an exceptional arrest.

Up to the end of the year forty-one members of the Hongkong Police Force had enlisted for Active Service and twenty more were ready at the end of the year to proceed to England. The following members of this Force were killed while on Active Service during the year:—P.C. A25 Herbert George Wakeford, K.R.R., killed on 17.5.16; P.C. A52 Arthur Alleghurst, K.R.R., killed on 17.1.16; P.C. A14 Peter Boyd Gardner, R.F.C., killed on 4.12.16.

Including men on leave (about 60) the strength of the Police Reserve is 642 of all ranks. The year under notice has seen many innovations and improvements. A Headquarters Club in Prince's Buildings was opened in August 1916. A magazine, called the Police Reserve Gazette, made its appearance in December, 1916. A section of Buglers and Drummers has been formed out of the Chinese Command. A Police School was formed and has been continuously working since November in which Mr. T. H. King, A.S.P., acts as Examiner and Chief Inspector Kerr, and Inspectors Gordon, Gerrard, P.O. Sullivan, and Grant, all of the Regular Force, have acted as Lecturers. The Mounted Police have made great progress, proving of value in regulating traffic. In addition to the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. F. C. Jenkin, three new Superintendents have been appointed. Mr. J. W. Franks as A.S.P. (R.), has taken over and put the Discipline Department on an efficient basis. Mr. T. F. Hough, A.S.P. (R.), as officer-in-charge of the Mounted Police, has brought this detachment to its present efficient state. Dr. Jordan, Surgeon Superintendent of Police (R.) examines daily any of the 800 men of the Force who seek exemption on medical grounds. Good work was voluntarily performed during the recent small-pox epidemic by Surgeon Inspector Thomas and the members of the Ambulance Platoon. A Musketry Course has been fired by all ranks. The Musketry Department, of which

At the Supreme Court this morning, the Chief Justice (Sir William Rees Davies) and the Puisne Judge (Mr. Justice Gompertz), sat in Full Court to deliver judgment on the appeal of Ho Cheng-tai against a decision of Mr. Gompertz in Chambers on the question of an originating summons against Hoi Ngok-lam.

It will be remembered that last Wednesday the hearing of this appeal occupied the attention of the Court, and that the appeal was based entirely on a matter of law and not of fact. Mr. Justice Gompertz had given a decision in Chambers upholding a preliminary technical objection to a summons and the appeal was against this being upheld.

The Counsel in the case were Mr. Eldon Potter (instructed by Mr. F. N. D'Almeida), for the appellant, and Mr. C. G. Alabaster (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), for the respondent.

The Chief Justice delivered a short written judgment, coming to the conclusion that the appeal must succeed. He was in favour of the costs of the appeal being borne by the respondent, but thought that the costs of the hearing in Chambers should be borne by both sides.

Mr. Justice Gompertz, in his judgment, came to a similar conclusion.

Mr. Potter then proceeded to argue that he should be given the costs of the hearing in Chambers and went on to draw the Court's attention to points which, he thought, had been overlooked. He read an extract from Mr. Justice Gompertz's notes of the case in Chambers.

Mr. Justice Gompertz:—I cannot find my notes in the case at all. Where did you get those from? Mr. Potter:—They are a copy of your Lordship's notes and were supplied by your clerk, and we have paid for them.—(Laughter.)

Mr. Justice Gompertz:—Well, he has supplied you with them, but has succeeded in concealing them from me.—(Laughter.) Mr. Potter:—I have no doubt that he could conceal many things from you if he wished.—(Laughter.)

Mr. Potter was proceeding to refer to another point when the Chief Justice remarked "Yes, the sins of the Counsel are always visited upon the client."—(Laughter.)

Mr. Potter:—There are no sins here, my Lord.

Further statement was heard, and after Mr. Alabaster had replied, the Judges came to the conclusion that the costs of the hearing in Chambers, as well as the costs of the appeal, should be awarded to the appellants.

Alice Memorial Hospital. The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals began to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the Funds of the Hospitals:—Hon. Lau Ona pat \$25; Ng Hon-tes, \$25.

Chief Inspector Chinchin is in charge, has been strengthened by the acquisition of Musketry Sergeant Fisher. Mr. Balean of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has given his services as Sergeant-Accountant. The Police Reserve perform both land and harbour patrols. Every evening sixty men report for duty at the Land and Water Police Stations. Arrangements have also been made and tested for a large proportion of the force to assemble at certain places, within a very short space of time and fully prepared for any emergency. The general and all round efficiency of this Volunteer Police Force is due to the personal energy and tact of Mr. Jenkin, the Deputy Superintendent, ably seconded by the other Superintendents and Inspectors. Thanks are also due to the Chinese General Committee for their advice and aid in providing funds for uniform and equipment of those portions of the Reserve which are composed of British Subjects of Chinese Race.

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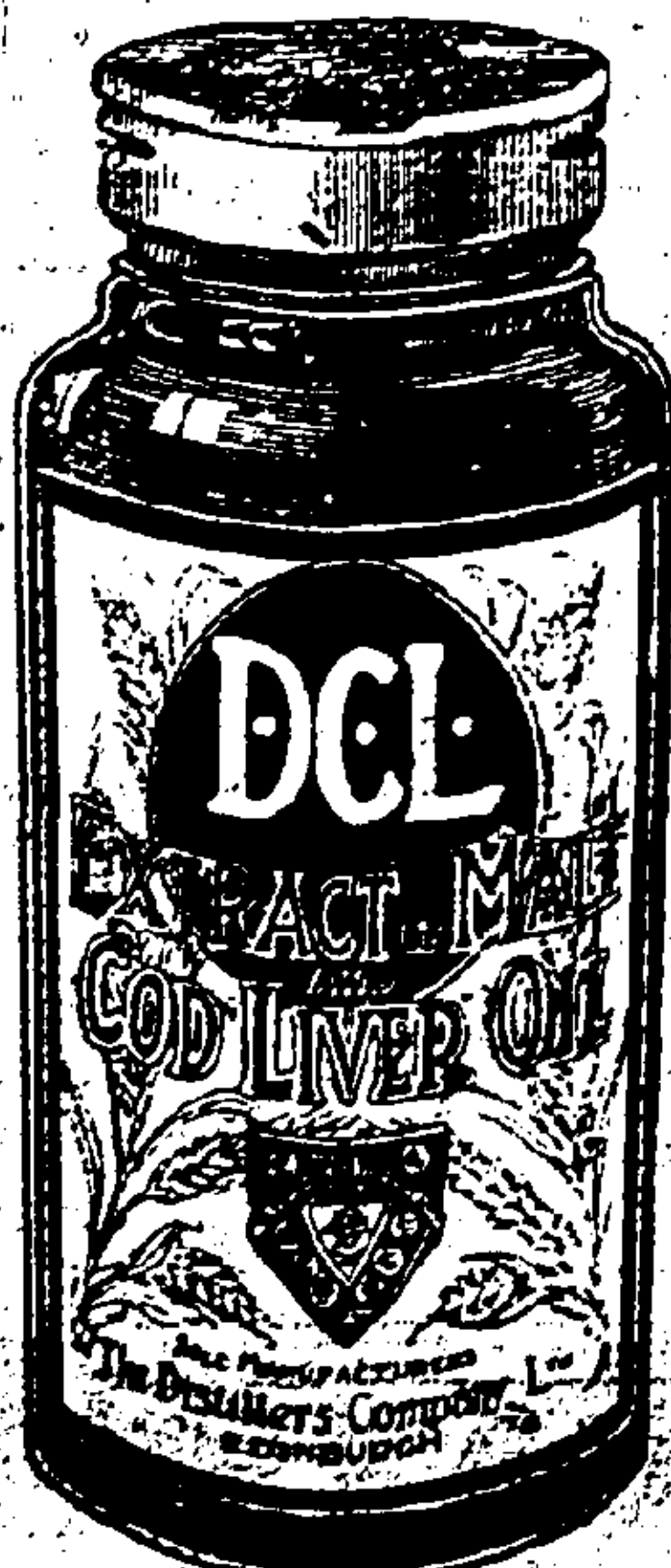
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Hongkong August 2, 1917.

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

Regular Fortnightly Service between

CHINA and JAPAN.

Steamers	From	Expected on or about	Will leave on or about	To
Tilapias		in port	7th Aug.	KOBE
Tilapias		1st Aug.	5th Aug.	SHANGHAI

The steamers are all fitted throughout with electric light and have accommodation for a limited number of saloon-passengers. All steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken at through rates to all ports in Netherlands-India and Australia.

For particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to the

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

York Building. 115

Telephone No. 1574.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

Regular Service of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for first Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in state-rooms and Saloon and Excellent Cuisine.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOCHEW AND RETURN.

(Occupying 7 to 10 days.)

Steamships.

Haifan ... A. E. Hodgins ... TUES., 7th Aug., at noon.

Haifan ... J. W. Evans ... FRI., 10th Aug., at noon.

FOR SWATOW.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to

Douglas Lapraik & Co.,

General Managers.

INDO-CHINA STEAM
NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

(Projected Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Alteration).

For	Steamship	On
HAIPHONG	Loksang	Fri., 3rd Aug. at 7 a.m.
MANILA	Loongsang	Sat., 4th Aug. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Esang	Tues., 7th Aug. at daylight.
MANILA	Yuensang	Sat., 11th Aug. at 3 p.m.

CALCUTTA LINE.—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai.

These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and carry a fully qualified Surgeon. This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war.

Particulars on application.

MANCHIA LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Southern Ports via Shanghai.

Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Southern Ports.

MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained, with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Saturday.

HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at other ports when convenient.

BORNEO LINE.—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by steamers having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.

Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kadiat, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Labud Dum.

TIENTSIN LINE.—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin calling at Weihaiwei and Chefoo.

Under Straits Government Passport Regulations.

All European Passengers, leaving the Colony for Straits Settlement, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

For Freight or passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

Telephone No. 215.

General Managers.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE—NEW YORK.

Branches and Agencies in all parts of the Commercial World.

BANKERS.
FORWARDERS.
TOURIST AGENTS.

AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHEQUES—

the best form in which to carry travel funds.

15, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL, TEL. NO. 2880.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Shipowners and the Government.

At a private meeting of members of Parliament who are shipowners (says the Lobby correspondent of the "Journal of Commerce," writing on June 9) the altered attitude of the Government towards the industry, as revealed in the Budget speech of Mr. Bonar Law, was under discussion. The increased taxation, it was pointed out, would bear with special injustice on those owners whose ships had been nearly all requisitioned by the Government, and who were consequently debarré from participating in the advantages accruing from the higher freights. The increased taxation was regarded as a distinct departure from the agreement entered into between the Government and shipowners on the pre-war basis of profits. It was resolved that a representative deputation should wait on the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what was regarded by shipowners as a breach of faith on the part of the Treasury, with the view of obtaining some modification of the increased taxation proposed by the Finance Bill.

Over £12,000 for Interned Men and Dependents.

At the last meeting of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild War Fund Committee, further cases were considered of dependents of certain merchant service captains and officers who find themselves in a state of some financial stress owing to various causes arising out of the war. After these cases had been carefully considered by the committee, weekly grants were made in three cases, in all of which the breadwinner had lost his life in the service of the country. At the present time, sad to say, some of these families are experiencing great difficulty in existing in view of the increased price of all commodities, which makes the position a most difficult one, all the more so when there are young children to be taken into consideration. It was reported that the expenses of the fund were still increasing, and the weekly grants now amounted alone to nearly £83. The number of prisoners in enemy countries had also increased of late owing to the intensified submarine warfare, with the result that the drain upon the fund is greater at the present time than it has ever been. The committee of this fund have now disbursed £12,372, and the keen appreciation which is felt amongst the members of the profession and their families for the assistance accorded to them is proved by letters received by the secretary day by day. Amongst recent contributions to the fund are £40 per the purser of the S.S. Empress of Japan, being a collection made from the crew and passengers; and per Commander E. Evans, R.N.R., collected by Captain W. Davidson, £125 & 2d.

British Women Heroes and War Losses.

It is a peculiar feature of a great war such as is at present being waged that while some families are to all intents and purposes scarcely touched from a personal point of view by the terrible happenings which are going on all around, others seem to be singled out for great sacrifice with all its attendant sorrow and sufferings. In some cases which have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild families have to mourn the loss of several of their members who have laid down their lives for the country whilst serving in various capacities. One has recently come to his notice where a lady reports that her father has "lost his life at sea," by his ship being mined there being only five survivors out of the whole crew. She goes on to say in her letter to the secretary—"I miss him very much; he has been very good to me. It is only two years last March, 11th, since my brother was lost in H.M.S. Bayane, which was torpedoed; my mother died three months later with the shock. I came home three years ago from Africa with my three little ones after the death of my husband; he was killed owing to an accident at his work, and father was the last of my family here in England." It will be seen that this lady has been called upon to bear a heavy burden of sorrow owing to causes arising out of the war, and the sympathy of the profession generally will be extended to her in her sad position. "Journal of Commerce."

NOTICES.

WELLS FARGO & CO.
EXPRESS.

FORWARDERS TO ALL PARTS OF THE
WORLD. SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE
SHIPPING OF TOURISTS' BAGGAGE AND PUR-
CHASES. TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES CASHED.

B. MONTEITH WEBB & CO., Representatives.
FORWARDING DEPT.
1st, Chater Road. Phone No. 1500.

KONINKLYKE PAKETVAART MAATSCHAPPY.

(ROYAL PACKET NAVIGATION CO.)

This vessel plies regularly between HONGKONG & BELAWAN
DELI (Sumatra) via Swatow.

Next Sailings from Hongkong:

This vessel has excellent saloon accommodation for a limited
number of passengers, is fitted with all modern conveniences
and carries a duly qualified surgeon.

For freight and passage apply to—

York Building, Tel. 1574.

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.
Agents.

PACIFIC MAIL S.S. CO.

U. S. MAIL LINE.

Operating the new First Class Steamers
"ECUADOR," "VENEZUELA" and "COLOMBIA."
14,000 tons each.

Hongkong to San Francisco,
via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and HONOLULU.

THE SUNSHINE BELT.

The most comfortable route to America and Europe.

Sailings from Hongkong.
S.S. "VENEZUELA" Aug. 15, at noon.
S.S. "ECUADOR" Sept. 12, at noon.
S.S. "COLOMBIA" Oct. 10, at noon.

These steamers have the most modern equipment including over
head electric fans and electric lighting ALL LOWER BERTHS &
Large Comfortable Staterooms (all single and two berths only).

The Safety and Comfort of Passengers is our first consideration. Special
care is given to the cuisine, and the attendance on passengers cannot be surpassed.

Tickets are interchangeable with the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Canadian
Pacific Ocean Service, Ltd.

For further information, rates, literature, schedules etc.,
Apply to—

Company's Office in
ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS,
Chater Road.

Telephone No. 141.

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO
& WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO
STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., & CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Single Fare by Night Steamer \$ 7.00
Return Fare by Night (available also for return by day steamer) 12.00
Single Fare by Day Steamer 6.00
Return Fare by Day Steamer 11.00

HONGKONG TO CANTON. | CANTON TO HONGKONG.

THURSDAY, 2nd AUGUST, 1917.

10.00 p.m. Faishan. | 4.30 p.m. Kinshan.

FRIDAY, 3rd AUGUST, 1917.

8.00 a.m. Heungshan. | 8.00 a.m. Honam.
10.00 p.m. Kinshan. | 4.00 p.m. Faishan.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. Taishan Tons 2,008. | S.S. Sui Tai Tons 1,651.

HONGKONG TO MACAO.

Week days at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok
Street Wharf. Sundays, at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Company's
Wing Lok Street Wharf.

MACAO TO HONGKONG.

Week days at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sundays at 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 5th AUGUST, 1917.

The Company's Steamship
"TAISHAN"

Will depart from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf at
9 a.m. and return from Macao at 3 p.m.

N.B.—The Company will also run a steamer from Macao on Sunday at 7.30
a.m. and from Hongkong at 1 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

The attention of the Public is drawn to the special facilities afforded by the Police
Department of the Macao Government. Passes are issued at the Police Station
facing the Company's Wharf thus obviating delay and trouble in having to apply at
this Head Police Station for permits.

Fares: Saloon, Single \$3, return \$5.

FARES AS USUAL.

MACAO-CANTON LINE.

S.S. "SUI TAI"

Leaves Macao for Canton every Monday, Wednesday and
Friday at 9 p.m. and Canton to Macao every Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday at 4.30 p.m.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.,
AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.

S.S. SAINAM 588 Tons and S.S. NANNING 569 Tons.

One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at about 8 a.m., and the other
leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 a.m. Round
trips take about 5 days. Passengers can return to Hongkong or vice
versa by the Company's direct Steamers LINTAN and SANUI.

These vessels have superior Cabin accommodation and are lighted
throughout by electricity. Electric Fan in each Cabin.

Booking Office open daily (Sundays excepted) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON, & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.
202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211th, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311th, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THE ALLIED OFFENSIVE.

German Front Penetrated to a Great Depth.

London, Aug. 1.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports as follows:—
The Allied operations were successfully continued despite
unfavourable weather. We entered the enemy's positions,
advanced our line on a front of over fifteen miles from
Labasse Ville on the Lys river to Steenstraat on the Yser
river and took possession of both villages. The French are
closely co-operating with and protecting the British left
flank. We captured Steenstraat, rapidly penetrating the
German defences to a depth of two miles. Having gained
the day's objectives at an early hour we continued the
attack and with the greatest gallantry captured Bixchoote
and positions to the south-eastward and westward of the
village on a front of two and a half miles, including Korte-
keer and Cabaret. We repulsed a counter-attack in the
afternoon. The British divisions on the centre and left
centres penetrated to a depth of two miles and secured the
crossings of the Steenbeke river, which were their final
objectives. In the course of their attack they stormed two
powerful defensive systems and carried the villages
of Verlorenhoek, Frezenberg, St. Julien and Pilken, also
many strongly defended farms, woods and organized locali-
ties. Further south our right centre, after gaining the
whole of their first objectives, including Hooge and San-
ctuary Wood, advanced against a most obstinate resistance
over difficult country in the neighbourhood of the Ypres-
Menin road and carried Westhoek. We penetrated the
enemy's defences to a depth of a mile in this neighbourhood,
where heavy fighting all day long is still continuing. We
repulsed a number of powerful counter-attacks. We gained
the whole of our objectives early in the day on the extreme
right, southward of the Zillebeke-Zaivoorde road, capturing
Labasse Ville and Hollebeke. In addition to inflicting heavy
casualties, 3,500 prisoners have already been brought in.
It is impossible yet to accurately estimate the captures.
The Chief Battleground.

London, August 1.
Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters reports:—The
country where the heaviest fighting is developing may be
likened to a vast saucer of which the German positions
form the rim. Nowhere is there any great ridge to tackle
such as Vimy or Messines, but a steady incline scarcely ap-
preciable to the eye but rendered difficult by stubby growth
and sparse trees to where further north it merges into the
Yser swamps. The final hurricane bombardment which reached
its maximum shortly before the infantry went over, was
the heaviest we ever experienced.

Getting on Famously with the War.

London, August 1.
Reuter's correspondent telegraphing at four in the
afternoon says:—We have got on with the war famously
during the last twelve hours. Naturally our achievements
are the fruit of weeks of preparation and rehearsal fight-
ing extending over such very great width that it is impos-
sible to reduce to definite terms the full measure of
success. Everywhere the same quiet smile of satisfaction,
speaking volumes, is observable. A whole British army
had advanced an average depth of one thousand yards by
ten in the morning. This means a lot in trench warfare.
Prisoners are streaming in, many readily surrendering. We
crossed the Yser at many places. Our bridge-work is
wonderful; one division alone, which was exposed to fire
the whole time, threw over seventeen bridges.
Our artillery is literally pursuing the enemy. One minute
after the appointed moment for beginning the attack our
guns were moving forward. The correspondent expresses
surprise that the Huns had not stiffened their front more
in view of their long anticipation of the attack and surmises
that, if the shortage of resources realises, the enemy have
large masses of reserves. But it is rather extraordinary
that the enemy is not taking full advantage of their un-
usually favourable positions. Our troops, imbued with fine
spirit and determination, crept up close behind the barrage
in readiness to rush the German trenches when the guns
lengthened out. In one case they actually dashed through
their own fire in order to prevent the escape of a large
number of Huns who were preparing to flee. They bagged
numerous prisoners at small cost.

The correspondent proceeds to refer to the boiling oil
drums mentioned on 10th June which were enough to quench
the most heroic spirits. Our people realising this did not
economise expenditure in these projectiles. In some places
the Huns are fighting as valiantly as ever and the corre-
spondent instances a strong redoubt, bristling with machine
guns, coming out to the last when it was finally rushed.
There was not a single unaccounted member of the garrison.
The correspondent remarks that it is true there had been
a little white flag incident here and perhaps this influenced
the German's resolve to avoid surrender. The weather has
cleared considerably since early morning. There is great
air activity.

Bitterness Among Enemy Prisoners.

London, August 1.
Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters writes:—
The military prisoners are so bitter against the German
prisoners owing to alleged insufficient support that it is
necessary to separate them. It transpires that the Huns
particularly distinguished themselves against the Kaiser's
favourite runners. The correspondent touches on the French
accomplishments which have evoked the highest admiration.
They threw twenty-nine bridges across the Yser and made
a very deep advance. The Germans show signs of counter-
attacking from the Langemarck line to St. Julien. They have
already counter-attacked unsuccessfully in the neighbourhood
of Pilken.

Fine Work by the French.

London, August 1.
A Paris communique says:—After crossing the Yser
Canal during the night the French, at four in the morning,
attacked in conjunction with the British on their right. A
formidable artillery preparation completely levelled the
German organisations and inflicted heavy losses. By the
end of the morning we had captured both enemy positions.
Our troops, ardently passing over their objective, advanced
along the Lizerne-Dixmude road, capturing Bixchoote,
Kortkeer and Cabaret. Our losses are insignificant. We
took much material and prisoners and the battlefield is
covered with German dead. The artillery fire on the Aene
is most violent. Details of the Boyers fighting show that
the French on the whole battle-front, exceeded their objec-
tive and were able to clean up trenches choked with German
dead. The enemy at eleven in the morning attacked west
of Chovregny and were repulsed. Three German regiments
attacked east of Cemy and were driven back by immediate
counter-attacks.

Germans Admit French Penetration.

London, July 21.
A wireless German official message says:—After grim
fighting attacks commenced on a wide front from the
Yser to Lys. The French have penetrated at two points at
Chovregny-Dixmude.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

Advances and Retirements.

London, July 31.
A wireless Russian official message says: We threw
back the enemy who crossed the Zbrucz northward of
Husiattyn and restored the situation. We frustrated an
effort to cross the Zbrucz in the region of Pukliany and
Podlipie. We evacuated Zalesak and fell back on the
Zakazik-Sniatyn front. We fell back southward of the
Valeputna-Kimpolung road. The Rumanians captured fort-
ified positions on the right bank of the Putna.
A German wireless message says: We have gained new
successes in east Galicia and at Bukovina and crossed the
Zbrucz at many points on a fifty kilometre front. The
enemy pressed us back southward of Casinului.

More Russian Treachery.

Petrograd, Aug. 1.

M. Kerensky has returned.
A battalion of death of three hundred Royal sailors
forced four lines of enemy trenches instead of two as order-
ed. When asked for reinforcements soldiers fired on the
sailors who, between two fires, began to retire. Only fifteen
of the men were unwounded and three officers shot them-
selves rather than retreat.

GENERAL NIXON'S SUCCESSOR.

London, Aug. 1.

Lieut. General Sir Robert Irvin Scallan, K.C.B., Indian
Army (a command of the Northern Army 1914, invalided
1915. Chief Commissioner for India of the Boy Scouts
Association 1913) has been appointed General in place of
General Sir John Eccles Nixon, K.C.B., supernumerary.

GERMAN ALLEGATION REFUTED.

London, July 31.

The Admiralty denies a German official statement that
hospital ships were misused in Mesopotamia.

The German allegation was based on the Commissioners'
criticisms of the lack of hospital ship accommodation neces-
sitating temporarily converting into hospital ships two
steamers loaded with horses and ammunition.

The Admiralty points out that these vessels did not
claim immunity, did not hoist the Red Cross flag and did
not display marks indicating any claim to neutrality. The
enemy would not have acted illegally if he had sunk them.

NOTICE.

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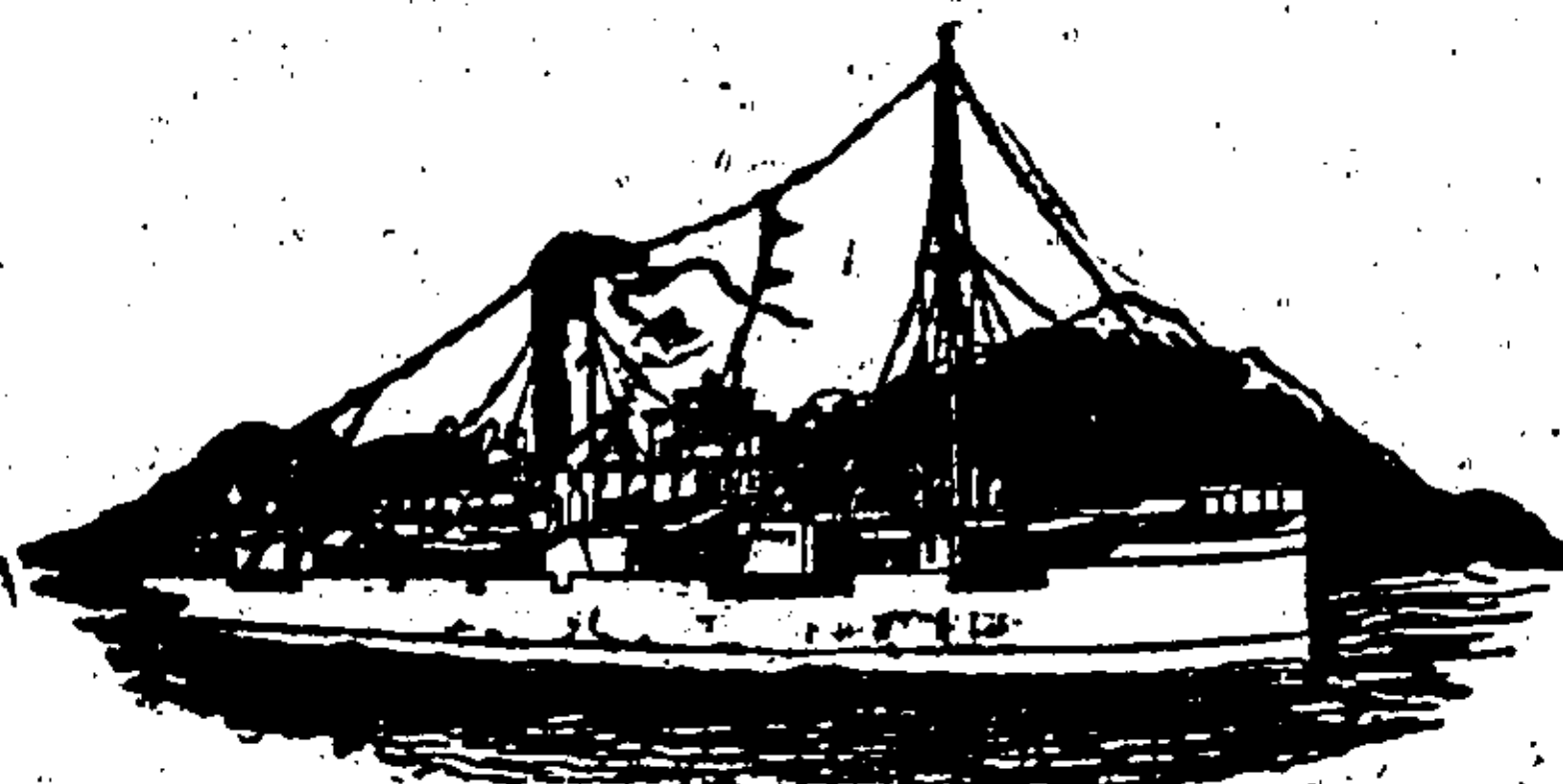
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H

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GOVERNMENT SERVANT HOUSING SCHEME.

Mr. Pollock's Questions Answered.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber this afternoon, when the following were present:

H. E. the Governor—(Sir Francis Henry Wy, K.C.M.G.)
H. E. the General Officer Commanding the Troops, (Major-General F. Ventria.)
The Hon. Mr. Oswald Severn Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, Attorney General.

The Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Director of Public Works.

The Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

The Hon. the Captain Superintendent of Police and acting Colonial Treasurer (Mr. C. Mc-Masser.)

The Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C.

The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton.

The Hon. Mr. R. S. Swan.

The Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak.

The Hon. Mr. S. H. Dodwell.

Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, (Clerk of Council.)

Opium Exports to Mexico.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the following resolution:

Whereas by the provisions of subsection (5) of section 10 of the Opium Ordinance, 1914, it is provided as follows:—"No person shall export or aid or abet the exportation of any raw opium from the Colony, if such exportation shall have been notified in the Gazette in pursuance of any resolution of the Legislative Council as being illegal": Now it is hereby resolved that the exportation of raw opium to Mexico is illegal; and it is further hereby resolved that a notification shall be made in the next issue of the Gazette to this effect.

The Hon. Colonial Treasurer seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

Financial Votes.

The following financial minutes, recommended by H. E. the Governor, were referred to the Finance Committee:

A sum of \$975 in aid of the vote Kowloon-Canton Railway, special expenditure, construction, heating apparatus for stores office.

A sum of \$125 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, New Territories, drainage, (40) Cheung Chau drain in main street.

A sum of \$548.25 in aid of the vote Police and Prison Departments, B.—Fire Brigade, other charges, clothing.

A sum of \$180 in aid of the vote, 1.—Education, Kowloon and Victoria British Schools.

A sum of \$850 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, Kowloon, buildings, 31, ricksha shelter at Kowloon Point.

A sum of \$5,850.00 in aid of the vote, Public Works, Extraordinary, Kowloon, miscellaneous, repairing and coaling yard for Government launches, made up as follows:—Cost of capstan or winch, \$3,407.03; foundation for winch, \$331.23; sandy stores, etc., \$111.77.

A sum of \$1,500 in aid of the vote, 7.—Imports and Exports Office, personal emoluments.

A sum of \$5,000 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, Hongkong, communications, (8) roads:—(a) general works.

A sum of \$850 in aid of the following votes:—Imports and Exports Department, other charges, rent of Tai Po Branch Office, \$100; Imports and Exports Department, other charges, alteration to New Tai Po Branch Office, \$750.

A sum of \$6,110 in aid of the vote, Kowloon-Canton Railway, special expenditure, land, site of new carriage shed, survey.

A sum of \$5,500 in aid of the vote:—Kowloon-Canton Railway, special expenditure, construction:—Buildings and fixtures, loco and carriage shed, \$5,000; earthwork (loco yard extension), \$500.

A sum of \$30,000 on account of "Miscellaneous Services"—"Rent Allowances".

His Excellency the Governor, speaking on this minute, said:

As hon. members are aware, this Government has during recent years been engaged in building quarters for the subordinate European Staff, including Overseers, Revenue Officers, Railway Staff, and Sanitary Inspectors, and practically the whole of this staff is now adequately housed. In the estimates for the last three years the Council has voted rent allowances for certain European married officers on small salaries, pending the erection of quarters to be occupied by such officers at a moderate rental; and in the estimates for the current year provision has been made for commencing the erection of these quarters at Leighton Hill. These rent allowances approximate to the difference between the rents which the married officers in question are in fact paying and the rents which the Government proposes to charge when the quarters are available for occupation. The case of the senior European Staff has for some time past occupied my attention, and I have been in communication with the Secretary of State on the subject. It is impossible at the present time, while a state of war exists, to consider anything in the nature of a general revision of salaries, but after very careful consideration I have arrived at the conclusion that some relief is urgently called for; and since the principal item in the high cost of living here for senior officers is that of house rent, the Secretary of State desires that this Government should adopt a similar principle to that applied by the Subordinate European Staff by providing quarters, at moderate rentals, for the Senior European Staff also. It is of course impossible to build houses forthwith for the many officers concerned, and any scheme that may be evolved will necessarily be spread over a number of years. In the meantime it is proposed to grant rent allowances to officers who are in separate occupation of a house or flat and the sum of \$30,000 mentioned in the minute is to provide such rent allowances for the whole of the current year to some fifty officers.

A sum of \$40,000 on account of "Miscellaneous Services"—purchase of "Lysholt" at the Peak.

In speaking on this minute, His Excellency said that in pursuance of the policy he had just indicated, the financial minute was laid before them. He regretted that the minute had not been laid before the Council before, but the sum to be asked for was only arrived at this morning. The Government was a bidder, through Mr. Henry Humphreys, for the property of "Lysholt," on the Peak. This was purchased by Mr. Ho Kow-tong, who, when he was informed that he had been bidding against the Government, said he was not aware of that—of course, he could not be. He very generously offered to stand aside and let the Government acquire the property which was eminently suitable for such purposes.

The minute was referred to the Finance Committee and later approved.

A Foreshore Nuisance.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock asked the following question:—

Will the Government take steps to prevent the Chinese from digging in the mud or turning up the mud with their hands on the foreshore between Arsenal Street and the North Point Hotel?

The Hon. Colonial Secretary replied as follows:—Legislation would be necessary to stop the practice referred to, as there is a common law right to take shell fish. A nuisance is undoubtedly occasioned by the odour which emanates from the stretches of foreshore between Arsenal Street and Causeway Bay which are exposed at low tide; but this nuisance is mainly due to causes other than the digging for shell fish. It will be finally abated when the reclamation scheme, now under consideration, is put in hand. As regards the remaining stretch of foreshore referred to, the Government is not satisfied that any nuisance calling for special legislation exists.

Kowloon Road Extension.

The Hon. Mr. Pollock asked the following question:—

Will the Director of Public Works take what steps, if any, have been taken, and, if so, when,

CANTON NEWS.

Warships on the Way from Swatow.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date of August 1 as follows:—

It is reported that Sun Yat-sen, after receiving the approval of Luk Wing-ting and the various Governors and Tuktans, has decided to carry out his plans. A headquarters will first be established, and the expeditionary army will be divided into three Divisions. When Parliament has again been convened and the expeditionary movement is approved, the Army will start for the North.

An important telegram from the newly-appointed Admiral Lau Koon-hung has been received by the Provincial Authority. It says that owing to his hesitation in accepting the appointment, Admiral Cheng Pik-kwong forced a ship of the First Squadron to Chusan for the purpose of rebelling against the Central Government. As it is impossible to create civil war at the present time, delegates have been sent to persuade the ships to return. It is advisable, however, to order all forts along the coast to keep a sharp look-out.

During a meeting of the Provincial Assembly yesterday, a member stated that the independence of Kwangtung had only been proposed by the Tuktans, and that a resolution confirming it ought to be passed by the Assembly. Other members strongly objected to this and a warm debate ensued, the meeting ending in disorder. A telegram from Swatow states that Admiral Cheng Pik-kwong and seven warships have arrived there and will leave for Canton at once.

It is reported that Cho Hing-lan, the Civil Governor, will ignore the Government's orders and remain in office.

FROM THE BELGIAN FRONT.

Former Hongkong Man's Letter.

The following letter received by Mr. S. D. Somkh from Trooper R. Judah, dated June 19, from "somewhere in Belgium," will no doubt be read with interest by many residents:—

Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and kicking. I have been on the move recently, almost from one end of the line to the other, mostly on horseback. Was in the last big affair which has been one of the most successful advances we've made. Our guns simply tore up everything before them. It was one of the most awful bombardments I have heard. The explosion of the mines was the talk of the day. The papers have been full of it. Fritz was caught like a rat in a trap and was only too pleased to be taken prisoner after the shaking up he had had. I asked him which side did he think would win and he said his (Germany) without a doubt, so you can see that we are up against a tough proposition. We've got him beat as far as guns and men are concerned and he admits our superiority in guns. We certainly have got "some" guns. We are all hoping to see the end of this business this year, but I have "ma dots," A nice big shell dropped not far off just as I finished. Gott-strafe the Kaiser.

for the construction of the promised road to connect Nathan Road, Kowloon, with Coronation Road? Has any contract been signed for the work, and, if so, when? When is it estimated that such connecting road will be completed?

The Hon. Colonial Secretary replied as follows:—(a) Tenders for the work involved have been called for in the Gazette of the 20th July. Negotiations for the resumption of certain land required in connection with the scheme were undertaken in April last and have not yet reached a conclusion. (b) No contract has yet been signed for the work. (c) It is anticipated that the work can be completed in three months from the date of signing the contract.

(The Council was adjourned for a week.

CONSCRIPTION IN HONGKONG.

THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

Full Text of the New Measure.

At this afternoon's meeting of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill intitled an Ordinance to make provision with respect to military service and to provide for the establishment, maintenance and control of a local defence corps.

The motion was seconded by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, and the Bill was read a first time.

The "objects and reasons" attached to the Bill state:—

The object of this Bill is to make all male British subjects between the ages of 18 and 55 who are ordinarily resident in the Colony, with certain exceptions which are specified in clause 2, liable to military service in the Colony when called up for such service.

Every person called up for military service under the Ordinance will, upon service of the notice calling him up, become *ipso facto* a member of the new Hongkong Defence Corps which is established by the Ordinance, and, subject to any regulations made by the Governor in Council, will become and remain subject to the Army Act.

Power is taken to accept for military service male British subjects who would otherwise be exempt from such service on account of their age or for any other reason. Persons so accepted will be required to take the oath or declaration of allegiance and to sign an enrolment form, and they will thereupon become members of the Hongkong Defence Corps, and will remain members until discharged or dismissed or exempted by the Governor in Council, and, as such, will, subject to any regulations made by the Governor in Council, become and remain subject to the Army Act.

Persons who reach the age of fifty-five years while members of the Hongkong Defence Corps will be discharged upon reaching that age unless they elect to continue subject to military service. If they so elect, they will take the oath or declaration of allegiance and sign the enrolment form, and they will then remain members of the Corps until discharged or dismissed or exempted.

It will be seen that no person who has attained the age of fifty-five years will be made subject to military service against his will, but that if he once accepts such liability he will remain subject to it until he is discharged or dismissed or exempted.

Power is given to the Governor in Council to exempt any person from military service on the ground of physical unfitness or for any other reason. Any person so exempted may be called up later for service in the discretion of the Governor in Council.

The Text of the Bill.

The full text of the Bill is as follows:—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Military Service Ordinance, 1917.

2. Every male British subject who for the time being shall be ordinarily resident in the Colony and who for the time being shall have attained the age of eighteen years and shall not have attained the age of fifty-five years shall be liable to military service in the Colony as provided for in this Ordinance: provided that the following persons shall not be liable under the provisions of this section:—

(a) Members of His Majesty's Regular Naval or Military Forces.

(b) Civilians in the employment of the Naval or Military authorities if recommended for exemption by the Naval or Military authorities.

(c) Men in holy orders or regular ministers of any religious denomination.

3.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council at any time to call up for military service any person liable to military service under this Ordinance.

(2) The order, calling up any such person, for military service may be in the form provided in the Schedule hereto and such order shall be served personally on the person whom it is desired to call up.

(3) Upon the service of such order the person to whom it is addressed shall become a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps which is hereby established.

4.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to exempt any person from military service under this Ordinance on the ground of physical unfitness or for any other reason, whatsoever.

(2) Any person who, has been so exempted may be called up for military service at any time if it appears to the Governor in Council that it is probable that ground for exemption no longer exists in each case.

5.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Governor to accept for the Hongkong Defence Corps any male British subject who would otherwise be exempt from military service under this Ordinance.

(2) If any such person is so accepted by the Governor he shall upon taking the oath or declaration of allegiance and signing the enrolment form as provided by this Ordinance become a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps.

6.—(1) The provisions of the Army Act shall apply to all members of the Hongkong Defence Corps subject to any regulations which may be made by the Governor in Council under this Ordinance: provided that no sentence of a court-martial upon a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps shall be carried into execution unless confirmed by the Governor.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council at any time to suspend the operation of any regulations so made under this Ordinance and thereupon until the Governor in Council shall revoke the said order of suspension the provisions of the Army Act shall apply to all the members of the Hongkong Defence Corps without the modifications formerly effected by the regulations so suspended.

7.—(1) Every person who becomes a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps, whether by service upon him of an order calling him up for military service or by voluntary enlistment, shall continue to be a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps until he is discharged or dismissed or exempted.

(2) Every member of the Hongkong Defence Corps who attains the age of fifty-five years while being a member of the said Corps shall upon attaining that age be discharged unless he elects to continue to be subject to military service.

(3) If any such member so elects he shall take the oath or declaration of allegiance and sign the enrolment form as provided by this Ordinance and upon his taking the said oath or declaration and signing the said form he shall be deemed to have been a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps as from the expiration of his liability to military service under the provisions of section 2 of this Ordinance and shall continue to be a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps until he is discharged or dismissed or exempted.

8. It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to make regulations for the constitution, management, training, service, and discipline of the Hongkong Defence Corps, and any other regulations whatsoever which may be desirable in connection therewith.

9. The Volunteer Ordinance, 1893, and the Volunteer Reserve Ordinance, 1910, shall be repealed as from the first day of January, 1918.

The various forms in the Schedule are as follows:—

Form No. 1.—Order calling up.

Take notice that His Excellency the Governor in Council has ordered that you be called up for military service under the Military Service Ordinance, 1917, and you are hereby so called, up accordingly.

Form No. 2.—Oath of Allegiance.

I, A. B., do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors according to law, and that I will faithfully serve in the Hongkong Defence Corps according to the conditions of my service. So help me God.

Form No. 3.—Declaration of Allegiance.—I, A. B., do solemnly and truly declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors according to law, and that I will faithfully serve in the Hongkong Defence Corps according to the conditions of my service.

Form No. 4.—Form of Enrolment.—I, A. B., hereby engage myself to serve in the Hongkong Defence Corps subject to the provisions of the Military Service Ordinance, 1917, and of the regulations which may be in force thereunder from time to time.

His Excellency's Speech.

His Excellency the Governor, speaking on the Bill, said:—

Honourable Members will recollect the circumstances which led up to the appointment of the Military Service Commission. In the correspondence with the Secretary of State which preceded the appointment of the Commission, I recommended after consultation with His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, under date of the 22nd January, 1917, that compulsory service for local defence should be imposed, that a wider use of the local force should be made, and that a further reduction in the regular garrison should follow to a point at which every member of the existing Volunteer Force must be considered indispensable for the defence of the Colony. Subsequently, under date of the 27th February, I informed the Secretary of State that if no such reduction of the regular garrison could be made, I was of opinion that the most satisfactory course to all concerned would be to adopt compulsion for Military Service outside the Colony. In March, I received authority to impose compulsory military service for local defence. On the 11th of April, I informed the Secretary of State, in reply to enquiry, that compulsory service for local defence would not increase the numerical strength of the existing Volunteer Forces, but that increased efficiency would result from a re-organisation under compulsory service which the General Officer Commanding and I were engaged upon. On the 11th of May, I was informed that the War Office had decided against a further reduction of the already much reduced garrison. On the 8th of May, I was asked by the Secretary of State what was the total of recruits who have gone home from Hongkong for military service and what number was still available. On the 19th of May, I replied that 375 men had gone from here to the front and, after consulting the Military Service Commission, I added that under the policy hitherto adopted of reduction of staffs to a minimum, but of non-interference with any existing business, irrespective of nature and importance, about 75 more men of British parentage fit for active Military service might be obtained, and I added estimates of larger numbers under varying degrees of stringency involving increasing degrees of interference with established businesses. The estimate of 75 was a very rough one, and I am inclined to think that it was too high. On the 21st of May, in forwarding the report of the Military Service Commission, I endorsed the suggestion of the Commission that compulsion for military service beyond the Colony should be adopted. On the 10th of July, I was informed that while compulsory military service outside the Colony was not definitely excluded, it is not contemplated in the special circumstances of Hongkong at present. Since the 19th of May, 14 more men have left here for the front, of whom four are Civil Servants. Deducting this number from the estimate of 75, it follows that in the opinion of those well able to judge, there may still be about 61 men fit for active service who could be spared without interfering with the business of the Colony and by the local Military Authorities responsible for the defence of the Colony. The Military Service Commission is still in being and will be kept in being for the purpose for which it was appointed, and I trust that

the Schedule hereto and such order shall be served personally on the person whom it is desired to call up.

(3) Upon the service of such order the person to whom it is addressed shall become a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps which is hereby established.

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(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council at any time to suspend the operation of any regulations so made under this Ordinance and thereupon until the Governor in Council shall revoke the said order of suspension the provisions of the Army Act shall apply to all the members of the Hongkong Defence Corps without the modifications formerly effected by the regulations so suspended.

7.—(1) Every person who becomes a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps, whether by service upon him of an order calling him up for military service or by voluntary enlistment, shall continue to be a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps until he is discharged or dismissed or exempted.

(2) Every member of the Hongkong Defence Corps who attains the age of fifty-five years while being a member of the said Corps shall upon attaining that age be discharged unless he elects to continue to be subject to military service.

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His Excellency's Speech.

His Excellency the Governor, speaking on the Bill, said:—

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recruits for the Armies outside the Colony will be forthcoming down to a point when the Military Authorities will have to step in and refuse to let more men go. I have said that I informed the Secretary of State that the numerical strength of the existing Volunteer Forces would not be increased by compulsory service for local defence; and this perhaps requires some further explanation. The correspondence with Mr. Long had reference only to men of British race, and practically all residents of British race, who are physically fit, are already enrolled in either the Volunteers, the Volunteer Reserve, or the Police Reserve. There are of course in the Colony many British subjects of non-British race; and the Bill before Council gives powers of compulsion over all British subjects. It is not, however, the intention at present to call up men other than those of British race, at any rate in any large numbers. It is far from the intention of the Government to discourage men of non-British race from joining the local forces, and recruits who may wish to volunteer will be as welcome in the future as in the past. The Government fully appreciate the good work done by many of Chinese, Portuguese, and Indian race, both in the Volunteer Forces and in the Police Reserve. I may mention that the Police Reserve will not be affected by the present Bill, and members of British race now enrolled therein will not be transferred to the Hongkong Defence Corps. I may take this opportunity to mention that the General Representative of Portugal, Japan, the United States of America, and the Netherlands have conveyed to me an offer from their compatriots to assist in the protection of the Colony, as members of the Police Reserve, or in any other way that might be considered suitable. I have not found it necessary to avail myself of these offers, but I am sure that hon. members and the community at large will endorse the high appreciation which I have expressed of the spirit in which they were made.

In moving the first reading of the Bill, the Hon. Attorney General said that he did not propose to say anything about the general objects of the Bill, but only wanted to give notice that he proposed asking in Committee to amend the last clause of the Bill. The Bill provided for the establishment of a local Defence Corps and would repeal the Volunteer Ordinance and Volunteer Reserve Ordinance. There was a balance in hand, belonging to the Volunteer Corps Fund and it seemed necessary to deal with that fund, because the Ordinance by which it was created was now going to be repealed. The amendments he would propose provided for the balance of the Fund to be applied for the purposes of the Defence Corps in such manner as His Excellency might determine.

The liberty of the Press is, *inter alia*, the right to comment upon public affairs and upon men in public life for the benefit of the community, without regard to the inconvenience or annoyance which such comments may cause to those thus criticised. But the basis of the right is that it is in the general interest that such comments or disclosures should be made. If that element does not exist, the right does not exist.

recruits for the Armies outside the Colony will be forthcoming down to a point when the Military Authorities will have to step in and refuse to let more men go. I have said that I informed the Secretary of State that the numerical strength of the existing Volunteer Forces would not be increased by compulsory service for local defence; and this perhaps requires some further explanation. The correspondence with Mr. Long had reference only to men of British race, and practically all residents of British race, who are physically fit, are already enrolled in either the Volunteers, the Volunteer Reserve, or the Police Reserve. There are of course in the Colony many British subjects of non-British race; and the Bill before Council gives powers of compulsion over all British subjects. It is not, however, the intention at present to call up men other than those of British race, at any rate in any large numbers. It is far from the intention of the Government to discourage men of non-British race from joining the local forces, and recruits who may wish to volunteer will be as welcome in the future as in the past. The Government fully appreciate the good work done by many of Chinese, Portuguese, and Indian race, both in the Volunteer Forces and in the Police Reserve. I may mention that the Police Reserve will not be affected by the present Bill, and members of British race now enrolled therein will not be transferred to the Hongkong Defence Corps. I may take this opportunity to mention that the General Representative of Portugal, Japan, the United States of America, and the Netherlands have conveyed to me an offer from their compatriots to assist in the protection of the Colony, as members of the Police Reserve, or in any other way that might be considered suitable. I have not found it necessary to avail myself of these offers, but I am sure that hon. members and the community at large will endorse the high appreciation which I have expressed of the spirit in which they were made.

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COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Yokohama's Silk Trade.
Silk transactions in Yokohama show unprecedented activity since the extraordinary boom in the spring of 1907, and quotations went up by about 300 Y. during the last two months, says the Japan Times of July 8. This is largely due to brisk demand in the U.S.A. and the present upward tendency may continue sometime yet, but as cocoons are extraordinarily dear this year, silk manufacturers may not be able to benefit so much. On the other hand, the scarcity of bottoms is now affecting such high class staple as silk. Formerly steamship companies competed with each other to load raw silk, but they now prefer general goods, as their freight rates are higher. Bigger firms of old fame do not materially suffer from this new trend on the part of shipping houses, but smaller ones are already much embarrassed. The union of foreign silk exporters in Yokohama have approached Japanese firms on the subject, and representatives of the latter were also putting their heads together. The export of silk is not brisk at present as is usual at this season of an ordinary year, but will become active from the end of July or the beginning of August. They hope thus to conduct negotiations with the shipping houses forth with, so as to secure a deficient export to some extent upon the increase of a few weeks hence. The steamship companies are also to have been conferring on the subject of bottoms for silk, and an enhancement of freightage. If the rate should be increased, it is considered doubtful to give silk shippers so much space as they require on regular liners, and it may become necessary to load some of such export on special steamers. Among other foreign vessels, the Canadian Pacific liners only one third of the volume formerly carried, owing to some reason or other. The Pacific Mail absolutely decline to take cargo in favour of general goods. The freightage of silk at present is \$2 on Japanese regular liners and \$2.75 on special boats. It is exceptionally low compared with that of other goods, not to mention extraordinary high rates paid by tea shippers. The Canadian Pacific charges \$4, while the rate from Hongkong and Shanghai is \$6. Silk shippers cannot also deny this, but weeks of parleys will still be required for the final settlement. America and clothes for Japan.
At least one in every four or five male Japanese is now wearing western clothing, according to a report just issued by the American Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. This means from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 persons, and the number is rapidly increasing. It is evident, therefore, that there is a large market for foreign-style clothes, wherever made—in Japan, England, Germany, or America. It is also evident that this market is rapidly increasing. At the time the war started at least two countries—Germany and England—were managing to supply Japan with a large amount of ready-to-wear clothing. They were doing this at prices generally much in excess of the Japanese-made products and selling them in the keenest competition with the Japanese articles, because of the superior quality of material or the workmanship, or both. According to the writer of the report, Mr. Stanhope Bams, the Japanese like to dress well and in as strict conformity as possible with the best prevailing fashions, whether in their native or in adopted foreign costume. They are not economical in the sense that they will wear old or inferior clothes. They wish always to make a neat, "atty" appearance, with good lines in their coats and trousers, and they especially like the former well cut and with a somewhat military look. In no other country, says the report, will the young men or the business men of standing spend more in proportion to their means for the purpose of making a smart appearance. It has been said that the better class of American wearing apparel cannot be sold in Japan because of the low-priced labour available for Japanese makers of clothing, but once having adopted foreign

SEPARATE PEACE.

Important Developments in Austria.

New York, July 15.—It is currently reported in Washington that the possibility of Austria-Hungary shortly making a proposal for separate peace for tentative purposes is the principal cause of the political crisis in Germany.
It is stated that the Catholics in Germany have made an arrangement with those in Austria that they should free themselves from the control of the Hohenzollerns and found a new democratic State.
Some refuse to believe the report, but it does not seem to be entirely groundless. The fact that Herr Erzberger, leader of the German Centre or Clerical party, visited Vienna a few days prior to his declaration in the Reichstag of severance of connection with the Junkers may be taken as indicating the conclusion of an understanding between the German and Austrian Catholics. If the Kaiser wants to tide successfully over the present crisis and allay the dangerously agitated state of public opinion, he must be prepared to make some substantial concessions.

dress the Japanese, true to his instinct for neatness and smartness, wishes to wear only the correct style, even if it costs more than the same clothing made by a native or Chinese tailor. This is shown by the fact that in most of the better-class tailoring shops a point is made of having the cutting at least done by an English or American tailor. As the report is intended primarily for those interested in marketing some sort of wearing apparel, many of the chapters are devoted to the methods of carrying on such business in Japan, but there is also absorbing reading for all who are interested in that country, for the author, in leading up to the subject of selling American wearing apparel, has discussed at considerable length the habits of the people which govern their choice of clothing.

AN ECONOMY

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Fifty typewriters with fifty operators at fifty desks,

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Or--

One typewriter, one operator and one

EDISON-DICK MIMEOGRAPH

The results are the same.

The Edison-Dick can do as much work in its line—in reproducing letters and similar forms—as the fifty stenographers and in one-fifth of the time.

The Edison-Dick Mimeograph saves labour—and it saves space. Its wear and tear is less than the wear and tear on a single typewriting machine—less by long odds. The Mimeograph not only saves money and material—but patience as well and very frequently good will.



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FREE GREEK OPINION.

Lord Robert Cecil Says a Plebiscite is Impracticable at Present.

Lord Robert Cecil, Under Foreign Secretary, was closely questioned about the Greek situation in the Commons on June 18. He stated that the protecting Powers will not allow King Constantine and his family to remain on Greek soil and that Herr Streitt, M. Gouanaris, Colonel Metaxas, General Dousmanis, and other notoriously pro-German intriguers are being removed. As to the movements of the King and Queen, the actual arrangements were left in the hands of the High Commissioner, and a full report has not been received.

Mr. Ronald McNeill asked that France and Russia be invited to consent to abrogate the monarchy in Greece as dependent on the Treaty of 1832, and since the present dynasty was established by treaty in 1863, as the result of a plebiscite, might not a further plebiscite be now taken as to the future government of Greece?

Lord Robert Cecil answered: "The treaty of July, 1863, was concluded not only with the French and Russian Governments, but also with the Danish Government, whose consent will be necessary before any modification can be introduced. At present it would be impracticable to hold a plebiscite of the Greek people, and in my judgment any such question as to the future of the monarchy as here raised should be postponed for the present, and perhaps till the end of the war." He added that he could not imagine the British people desiring to take any steps to prevent the free expression of the opinion of the Greek people on any domestic affair.

Answering Mr. Outwaite, Lord Robert stated that M. Jonnart's powers "enabled him to act with decision and rapidity, and without having to consult at every stage and on every detail the home Governments." He declined to discuss with Mr. Lynch "the hypothetical question" of a Republic in Greece.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company, Ltd.

Dorac, from Osaka.
Thianik, from Amoy.
Wongahzay c/o Compradore, s. s. Yungshan, from Shanghai.
Kwongkongwo, from Shanghai.
Okuda, c/o Matsubara, (2) from Osaka.
Yingsheng, Jervois Street, from Shanghai.
Efurti, from Shanghai.
Whitepa, Etc., from Shanghai.
Virginia Isbester Etc., from Amoy.
Tienhopankwan Tchunwan, from Hankow.
Wonghanson Etc., from Shanghai.

A. R. SORESENSEN, Act. Superintendent.
Hongkong, July 27, 1917.

Eastern Extension, Australasia & China Telegraph Co.
Abeennomke, Str. Hokuto Maru from Semarang.

Daisenkon, from Semarang.
Farmer, Hongkong Hotel, from Newchwang.

Hirajama c/o Mitsui, from Sourabaya.
Jacks, Mrs. from Manila.
Kimhookhoe, from Sourabaya.

Malkow, American Consulate, from Weltevreden.
Meehan, from Manila.
Nakusuke Iwatani Matsubara, from Thursday Is.

Okuda, Waide Hotel, from Taipei.
Ossorio, Hongkong Hotel, from Shanghai.

Turner, King Edward Hotel, from Nutfeld.
Syphens, Princess Juliana, from Singapore Radio.

Waller, from Bombay.
Wrechner, American Consulate, from San Francisco.

J. M. BECK, Superintendent.
Hongkong, July 26, 1917.

Since Greek unity is to be re-established, the extension of the Venizelist sphere of influence, as advocated by Mr. Lynch, does not—in Lord Robert Cecil's opinion—arise. He does not go so far as to say that the late Greek Government encouraged attacks on Allied forces by irregular troops, but "a certain number of regular officers of the regular Greek Army were concerned with the operations of irregular bands in Thessaly."

HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S.—SELLERS; SA.—SALES; B.—BUYERS; N.—NOMINAL.

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FIRE INSURANCES.

SHIPPING.

REFINERIES.

MINING.

DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, & C.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.

COTTON MILLS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CORRECTED TO MON THURSDAY AUGUST 2, 1917.

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Share and General Brokers.

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T/T Demand 2/7 1/4

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60 d/s 2/7 1/4

T/T Shanghai 2/7 1/4

T/T Singapore 11 1/4

T/T Japan 12 1/4

T/T India Nom.

Demand, India Nom.

T/T San Francisco 6 1/4

co & New York 150 1/4

T/T Java Nom.

T/T Marks Nom.

T/T France 3 3/4

Demand, Paris 3 3/4

BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C 2/8 3/4

4 m/s. D/P 2/8 3/4

6 m/s. L/C 2/8 3/4

30 d/s. Sydney & Melbourne 2/8 3/4

30 d/s. San Francisco 6 3/4

4 m/s. Marks Nom.

4 m/s. France 3 3/4

6 m/s. France 3 3/4

Demand, Germany 3 3/4

Demand, New York 6 3/4

T/T Bombay Nom.

Demand, Bombay Nom.

T/T Calcutta Nom.

Demand, Calcutta Nom.

Demand, Manila 11 1/4

Demand, Singapore 11 1/4

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Chinese 20 cts. pieces 3 1/4

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Hongkong, 14th May, 1917.

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Lends on Mortgage of House Property, and Goods, and on other securities.

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Established 1880.

Authorized Capital Yen 45,000,000

Paid-up Capital " 36,000,000

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Interest allowed on Current Accounts. Deposits accepted for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

KISHI ONO, Manager.

Hongkong, 18th July, 1917.

BANKS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital—\$15,000,000

RESERVE FUNDS: Sterling £1,500,000 at 2 1/2%—\$15,000,000

Silver—\$15,500,000

Reserve Liability of \$33,500,000

Proprietors—\$15,000,000

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